GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:292
ANSWERED ON:23.03.2005
PREVALENCE RATE OF LEPROSY
Jagannath Dr. M.

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that the prevalence rate of leprosy in India is worse than the global prevalence rate as appeared in the Asian age dated January 31, 2005;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to spread awareness among the Indian masses in order to dispel their wrong notion about this disease?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS)

(a)to(c): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 292 FOR 23RD MARCH, 2005

The Global Leprosy prevalence rate is now 0.8 cases per 10,000 population. In India, the prevalence rate in January, 2005 was 1.86 per 10,000 population. The provisional prevalence rate in March, 2005, is 1.76 per 10,000 population.

Currently, nine countries including India are yet to achieve leprosy elimination (i.e. prevalence rate of less than 1 per 10,000 population). These countries are Angola, Brazil, Central African Republic, D.R. Congo, India, Madagascar, Mozambique, Nepal and Tanzania. India is making satisfactory progress towards achieving leprosy elimination by December, 2005. 20 States/UTs have already achieved elimination and 6 States with Prevalence Rate between 1-2 per 10,000 population are close to achieving elimination. Leprosy is now mainly endemic in States of Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Orissa, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal.

Information, Education and Communication (IEC) is a strong component of the National Leprosy Eradication Programme. For creating awareness about facts of leprosy, appropriate messages are projected on Mass Media (including Kalyani Programme). At peripheral level, emphasis is laid on Inter-personal communication for IEC on leprosy.